

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193689
ORIGIN SS-15

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66011

DRAFTED BY:EA/K:RGRICH:FLW

APPROVED BY:EA/K:MR RICH

S/S:RLHART

-----045525 160203Z /66

R 160009Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193689

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 11666 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TOKYO
PEKING HONG KONG CINCPAC DATED AUG 12:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11666

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: KN CH US UR PLOS MOPS

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN MILITARY SEA BOUNDARY

REF: (A) STATE 185975 (NOTAL; (B) STATE 190651 (NOTAL)

1. I CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ILLCHEV FRIDAY, AUGUST
12, MADE THE TALKING POINTS IN REF A AND LEFT THEM IN A NON
PAPER. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE
APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION.

2. ILLCHEV THANKED ME AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS AUTHORITIES.
SPEAKING CAREFULLY FROM A WRITTEN BRIEF, HE ASSERTED THAT THE
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DPRK IS A SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT STATE AND AS SUCH CAN NATURALLY
ADOPT MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD ITS RIGHTS AND INTERESTS. REGARDING
THE QUESTION OF HOW THE DPRK'S ACTIONS TALLY WITH THE RULES

OF THE LAW OF THE SEA AND "WITH THE POSITION STATED BY OUR
SIDES," THIS IS NOW UNDER CAREFUL STUDY. AT THE
THIRD LOS CONFERENCE CERTAIN TENDENCIES WERE VOICED

AND "OUR POSITION REGARDING THESE TENDENCIES IS WELL KNOWN." THE SOVIET SIDE WILL STUDY THE "WHOLE COMPLEX" OF QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF THE DPRK ACTION AND IF NECESSARY WILL COMMUNICATE WITH THE US AT AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT.

3. I SAID THAT I HOPED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD DECIDE IT WAS IN

THEIR INTEREST AND IN CONSONANCE WITH THEIR LOS POSITION TO TELL THE NORTH KOREANS THAT THEY SHOULD RESCIND THEIR MOVE.

4. REITERATING AND SLIGHTLY EXPANDING ON HIS EARLIER FORMULATIONS, ILLCHEV SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE GUIDED "BY OUR COMMON INTERESTS IN THIS MATTER" AND THAT WE WOULD HEAR FROM THEM AS SOON AS THIS PROVES POSSIBLE.

5. COMMENT: ILLCHEV, WHO WAS WELL PREPARED, RECEIVED ME IN A FRIENDLY MANNER. HIS REMARKS WERE CLEARLY DESIGNED TO CONVEY A SENSE OF SHARED SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE LOS IMPLICATIONS OF THIS MATTER WHILE DOCUMENTING FOR THE RECORD SOVIET SUPPORT FOR DPRK SOVEREIGN RIGHTS. THERE WAS NO POLEMIC, AND NO EFFORT TO DUCK THE ISSUE AS DID THE CHINESE (REF B). TOON UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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